of India the World Bank has noted that the balance between population and land and water resources is a continuing concern, with important implications for both poverty alleviation and protection of the environment.

(d) Population Control forms an integral part of the planning process in the country. The new policies relating to population Control aim at adopting a holistic approach. The aim at giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage of girls, attitudinal changes in regard to strong son preference etc. besides improving the performance of the Family Welfare Programme. They recognise the importance of improvement of the quality and out-reach of family welfare services, reduction of infant child and maternal mortality, eliciting larger participation of the people in population control efforts and the need to have strong administrative support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Commitee of the National Development Council on Population has been set up to take into account the multi-sectoral dimension of the population issues and to evolve a National Population Policy. In the light of these, an Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administration for imparting a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme. Population control is a thrust area in the VIII Five Year Plan and foremost priority is being accorded to it.

Clearance of Medical Claim

2049. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1189 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1991 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the clearance of the backlog of 2126 medical claim bills pending for reimbursement with the Directorate-General Health Services;

(b) whether instructions regarding the clearance of all these Bills are being issued to avoid lapse of funds;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the backlog of medical claim as on 1st January, 1992 are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Out of 2126 pending claims as on 4.12.1991, 1388 claims have been processed and 738 are pending.

(b) There is no question of lapse of funds. The pending bills will continue to be processed and cleared.

(c) In view of reply given at (b) above the question does not arise.

(d) All efforts are being made to clear the backlog within 4 months.

Scrapping of Loan Licensing System

2050. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have scrapped loan licensing system in pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the provisions of the Drug policy announced in 1986 that the loan licensing system will be discontinued in a phased manner before the end of the 7th Plan, a decision was taken by the Government to discontinue the system with effect from 1.1.1992 in public interest.

Use of Methyle Cellulose

2051. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors in the country use Methyle Cellulose for cataract operations which has some disadvantages and it is not used any where else in the world for such operation; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?